GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
INCREASE IN AGRI EXPORTS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the agri-exports have increased in the country over the years ;

(b) If so, the details thereof during the last three years and the items which are exported during the above period ;

(c) Whether the Government has made any perspective plan for agri-exports during the current decade ;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The steps taken to further boost the production and export of agricultural products in the country particularly in fruits and vegetables?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. Agricultural exports recorded a growth of 7.5%. 11.6% and 19.7% during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively. The details are at Annexure.

(c) to (e) : The Government of India promotes agro-exports directly and through Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Associations. In order to boost export of agro products, the Government, through the Commodity Boards, provides various incentives for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and promotion, packaging,publicity, information dissemination etc. besides providing assistance to exporters for conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers etc. Further, the Government has taken initiatives to make the farmers aware about the latest techniques of farming through mass media support to agriculture which uses Doordarshan infrastructure for providing agriculture related information and knowledge to the farming community. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products, which inter alia, include Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulure, Micro-irrigation and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes.Schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna are implemented to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.